

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

VOL. 51—NO. 168

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1915

PRICE TWO CENTS

PENFIELD REFUSES TO CONSIDER DEMANDS OF MACHINISTS; STRIKE PLANNED FOR MONDAY AT NOON

PREPARE DEMANDS ON EVERY MACHINE PLANT IN THIS CITY

Spirited Meeting of Machinists' Local Results in Authorization of Executive Committee to Call Strikes Wherever It Is Found Necessary to Procure Betterment of Working Conditions.

Recognition of the union.
Guarantee of a permanent eight hour day.
No reduction in wages.
Reinstatement of all men who may be called out in event of strike.

These are the conditions that union labor in Bridgeport is prepared to present to practically every machine shop in the city, as the result of unanimous action of the International Association of Machinists at a meeting of Local No. 30, last night.

Incidentally—and this issue has been almost obscured through the sudden agitation for the far more sweeping demands—the machinists demand that the millwrights, now on strike at Remington Arms & Ammunition Co., shall be members of the International Association of Machinists. The millwrights' affiliation with the carpenters raised the jurisdictional dispute that brought the labor troubles here to a crisis.

Absolute authority to handle the situation here has been vested in an executive committee comprising the international vice president, J. J. Keppler, of the International association; George J. Bowen, the business agent of Local No. 30, and five members of the local union. Keppler announced at the strike meeting last night that the international board had authorized him to confer upon the Bridgeport local, full authority to act, without further reference, in the Bridgeport situation.

The sense of the meeting was that the demands to be made upon the U. M. C. Co. with reference to the millwright situation, should be made jointly upon the ammunition plant itself and upon the Stewart Construction Co. The construction company is doing the vast building and equipment work for the ammunition plant. It is known to labor unions throughout the country as a thoroughly union concern.

The sense of the meeting too, was that the executive committee should conduct its campaign to gain the demands of the machinists, as to work as little hardship as possible upon several Bridgeport plants which have been conspicuous for their attitude of fair play towards the union machinists. Notable among these are the American Graphophone Co., the Lake Torpedo Boat Co., and the Smith & Egge Mfg. Co.

But in the discussion particular emphasis was laid upon the fact that while the machinists in the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co. and allied plants might be granted the demands, there were scores of machinists in other shops working indirectly for the Remington interests who also are entitled to consideration. And it

BACKSLIDERS WILL DEFEAT PURPOSES OF GENERAL STRIKE

That Is Opinion of Smith & Egge Official on Local Condition.

"I consider the demands of the machinists' union very unjust," said Oliver C. Smith, secretary and treasurer of the Smith & Egge Co., to-day. "I don't believe the manufacturers will grant them and I don't believe the machinists can win if they go on strike. They tried the strike method once before and the manufacturers beat them and although they are said to be better organized now than they were then I think there are just enough backsliders among them to beat them again. I believe the manufacturers will stand together in this matter."

"Ninety per cent. of the factories in the city are working on a ten hour schedule. Some factories work but nine hours. Our factory has been a nine hour shop since 1903. I believe if the machinists were to ask for the nine hour day the manufacturers might consider it but I think there are enough non-union machinists out of work and enough backsliders in their own ranks to beat them badly if they do strike. I should say that a strike of the machinists will not seriously cripple Bridgeport and we will have enough of that class of workmen to keep busy on our contracts, strike, or no strike."

CUNARD LINE AND CAPTAIN CLEARED OF BLAME FOR LUSITANIA DISASTER; SHIP UNARMED, SAYS LORD MERSEY

PASSENGER LINER ORDUNA IS FIRED ON BY SUBMARINE

Torpedo Misses Mark and Six Shells Are Directed At British Ship.

CHASE BY BLOCKADER EVADED BY CAPTAIN

Passengers Praise Action of Officers in Handling Ship When Under Fire.

New York, July 17.—Passengers aboard the British passenger liner Orduna, which reached here today, said that a submarine attempted to torpedo the vessel at 6 o'clock on the morning of July 9 and failing in its effort, fired six shells at the steamer, none of which took effect.

Few passengers were on the deck when the attack occurred. Baron Rosenkrantz, of Denmark, one of the passengers, reached the deck as the Orduna was fleeing from her assailant and witnessed the attack.

The submarine chased the steamer, it was said, for a considerable time and finally abandoned pursuit.

The next day a meeting of the passengers was held in the saloon and the following resolution adopted by 23 of them, was handed to Captain Taylor:

"The first cabin passengers of the steamer Orduna desire to express their heartfelt appreciation and admiration of the masterly manner in which your steamer during the sudden and deliberate attack upon it on the morning of July 9, at 6 a. m., by a German submarine."

The information that the Orduna had been attacked was obtained when the vessel reached quarantine. The trip from quarantine to the dock generally consumes an hour or more. Full details were expected with the docking of the ship.

The Orduna had 225 passengers on board, 21 of whom were Americans.

Several attorneys representing American clients listened closely to the reading of the judgment, which may have a bearing on actions brought against the steamship company.

Among the spectators were Walter Webb-Warr, representing the Vandervell family, Major F. Warrington and Mrs. Pearl, of New York, and F. B. Jenkins, of Chicago, survivors, and William Crichton, of New York, whose wife was lost.

The salient features of the report are that the lifeboat and lifebelt facilities were adequate, that the demeanor of the crew was above all blame and that the conduct of the passengers, barring a slight panic when the storage passengers came on deck, was praiseworthy.

The court also found that the ship was unarmed and carried a general cargo and that the ammunition on board consisted of only 5,000 cases of cartridges from which there was no explosion.

"No doubt there were mishaps in handling the ropes of the boats," Lord Mersey said, "but in my opinion there was no incompetence or neglect."

(Continued on Page 2.)

THAW, AT LIBERTY, SPENDS QUIET DAY AT OCEAN RESORT

Atlantic City, July 17.—Harry K. Thaw's first night of real freedom in nine years, was spent in restful sleep at a beach front hotel here. After yesterday's weary ride down the state from New York after he was released on bail, Thaw was much refreshed and prepared to spend the day quietly.

So far as could be learned, Thaw has formed no definite plans for the immediate future except to get as much rest as he can. It is believed he will go to his home in Pittsburgh in a few days.

Board walk promenaders were on the alert to get a glimpse of the slayer of Stanford White and many lingered along his hotel.

WEATHER FORECAST

Generally fair tonight and Sunday, somewhat lower temperature; moderate to fresh west winds.

Loss of Big Liner Due to Torpedoes Fired By "Submarine of German Nationality," Says Findings.

Youthful American Member of Crew Is Praised For Bravery—Report Says Ammunition in Hold Did Not Explode.

London, July 17.—Lord Mersey, of Texteth, today announced his findings following an inquiry into the facts of the sinking, on May 7, last, of the steamer Lusitania and the consequent loss of more than 1,000 lives.

The Baron's conclusions were distinctly disappointing to the small gathering, composed almost entirely of survivors and relatives of victims of the disaster who were present to listen to the findings.

The report found that the Cunard liner sank as the result of the act of a submarine which not only had intended to destroy the ship, but had planned to blot out the lives of the passengers.

The report exonerated Captain Turner and the Cunard line from all blame and commended the discipline prevailing on the ship at the time she was sinking.

Americans Are Represented

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HILL ON STAND TUESDAY IN HIS ELECTION PROBE

Cummings to Cross-Examine Him As To Expenditure of Great Fund.

KING, TOO, MAY BE AMONG WITNESSES

Mallory Tells How He Got Manufacturers to "Kick In" For Hill.

(Special to The Farmer.)

Stamford, July 17.—Ebeneszer J. Hill, whose right to the congressional seat from this district is being contested by Jeremiah Donovan, will be given an opportunity to tell what he knows about the \$10,000 fund expended by the congressional committee in Fairfield county at the last election.

Mr. Hill, it was learned to-day, will be called to the witness stand when the hearing is resumed here Tuesday morning. He will be subjected to cross-examination by Homer S. Cummings, counsel for Mr. Donovan, and his testimony undoubtedly will be a feature of the hearing.

There is a possibility, too, that John T. King, who is a state central committee man, may be called on to see if he can throw a little light on the subject.

It developed at the session yesterday afternoon that the congressional committee which handled the \$10,000 campaign bag, was made up mostly of former political office-holders under appointments by Mr. Hill. Two of the members were ex-postmasters: E. W. S. Pickett of Fairfield, and William M. Reynolds of Newtown. Two others were officials of the internal revenue department: Charles B. Mason, of Danbury, and James W. Ambler of Bethel.

Like Messrs. Pickett and Reynolds, who couldn't tell much about the finances of the committee, Mr. Mason professed almost total ignorance of the methods of expending the \$10,000 pot. Mr. Ambler knew that some of the money was spent for "literature" containing references to Mr. Hill and Senator Brandegee, the purpose of such printing, he said, being "to help the whole ticket."

Milton Possenden, of counsel for Mr. Hill, who was chairman of the congressional committee, resumed the stand for a short time yesterday afternoon, and told Mr. Cummings that a printed appeal had been sent out by the committee in its quest for funds. He promised to bring a copy of the appeal to the hearing.

Charles A. Mallory, a Danbury hat manufacturer, who was one of the collectors for the fund, told of his activities in Danbury. He collected several hundreds of dollars in Danbury and Bethel.

"You were sent out to see the hat manufacturers, weren't you?" asked Mr. Cummings.

"I don't think so; I was to get all the money I could, wherever I could."

Mr. Cummings then took up the list of contributions that Mr. Mallory had obtained. They were more than twenty in number. Going through the list, he drew from Mr. Mallory the fact that every contributor was a hat manufacturer or a manufacturer in an allied business.

"All that you were successful with, were in the hat business or an allied trade?" he asked the witness.

"That is correct."

Mr. Mallory said that he visited the contributors at their factory offices.

John M. Donnelly in Employ of U. M. C. Co.

Former Deputy Sheriff John M. Donnelly has taken a position in the office of the Remington-U. M. C. Co. He had considerable experience in clerical work when he was tax collector so his services should be valuable to his new employers.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND SHERIFF VISIT IN DANBURY

County Commissioners Frank E. Ballard and Henry Crawford and Deputy Sheriff Simon Pease went to Danbury last night where they were guests of Deputy Jailer Wright of the Danbury jail. A fine dinner was enjoyed and later the guests were entertained by an orchestra and several singers.

CONFERENCE AT ARMS CO. FAILS TO BRING PEACE

Authoritative Information Is That Machinists Propose to Handle First the U. M. C. Situation, Then Take Up the Eight Hour Day and Recognition of Union Throughout City.

Major Walter A. Penfield, head of the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co. Bridgeport plant, refused today to consider with representatives of union labor the demands that have been formulated by the International Association of Machinists.

Major Penfield holds that up to the present time his company has not become a party to the crisis and the union representatives were unable to make him see it otherwise. Their mission was futile. From authoritative sources, it was learned, this afternoon, that unless further negotiations proceed with better success the union machinists and allied trades will be called out of the big ammunition and arms manufacturing at noon Monday.

This action will be taken upon the unrestricted authority conferred upon the executive committee of the local union No. 30 of the International Association of Machinists. The committee has full power to call strikes, not only in the Remington plants, but in all other machine shops in the city where it deems such action advisable towards getting the shorter hours and union recognition.

That the potential strike could throw out of employment between 20,000 and 30,000 persons in this city was definitely stated today by Frank Jennings, Vice-President of the International Association of Machinists, under whose jurisdiction the New England states has been placed by the General Executive Board of the American Federation of Labor.

Another strike involving union patternmakers was called this morning at the works of the Lake Torpedo Boat plant, which it is said has taken every pattern maker from the works. This strike is held to be separate from the machinists action, but is in line with the report that several unions are today taking action upon strike decisions. Among these unions the electrical workers, sheet metal workers, die-sinkers and drop forgers are included.

Vincent DeFalco, International Organizer of the Hod Carriers' Union stated that his organization had previously taken a strike ballot and that it had been approved by the General committee. If the machinists walk out the hod carriers will also lay down their tools. This in turn will involve the bricklayers who while partially satisfied by the terms of a recent agreement with the Stewart Company are now discussing renewal of the strike with their own international organizers.

An appeal was made directly to Frank Morrison, Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, in charge of all organizers, at Washington, D. C., to at once send organizers here for the purpose of unionizing the unskilled girls and men employed in the big ammunition plant of the Remington-U. M. C. Company.

This action is taken to mean that the ammunition plant is to be turned into a closed shop with every branch of skilled labor organized and the unskilled men and women turned into unions which are provided by the American Federation for just such a crisis as has arisen here. In the event of complete organization the Remington-U. M. C. which has heretofore been an open shop treating directly with the men only would be compelled to recognize the labor heads, as will all other factories in Bridgeport should the complete plans outlined last night be enforced to the letter. There are no machine shops in Bridgeport today treating with labor as an organization.

PENFIELD REFUSES TO SEE REPRESENTATIVES OF UNION

What actually happened in the conference between the labor heads and the Remington officials this morning is somewhat of a mystery as far as the Remington heads are concerned. When newspaper representatives called at the plant today they were courteously met by E. W. Carpenter, general employment agent, who in turn telephoned to press representative John M. French. "This officer immediately became a press censor and returned word that 'nothing of importance had transpired.' All efforts to secure an interview with Major Penfield were unavailing."

On his return from the conference which took place at the Remington Arms plant at 12:30 this morning J. J. Keppler, who had been accompanied by John A. Johnston, said:

"At the request of the executive committee of the machinists here myself and Mr. Johnston went out to the plant to request an interview with Major Penfield. We went there to see one of the officials and ask that a conference be arranged if possible."

"We saw Mr. French who reported back to us that the major could not see at this time that he had anything to confer about because all of the men involved at the present time in the strike are on the Stewart payroll and he (Penfield) would have nothing to say."

GOING AWAY?

Let The Farmer follow you on your summer vacation. Keep in touch with friends and happenings at home. Telephone your order, No. 1208.